

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-10 EA-13 EUR-10 NEA-06

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 SP-01

DODE-00 H-01 L-02 PM-03 PRS-01 ACDA-10 SCA-01 DPW-01

MC-02 OIC-01 SCS-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /104 W

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P 210345Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4893

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6596

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM PFOR ICRC VN VS

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: A. GENEVA 3096

B. GENEVA 3078

C. GENEVA 2034

D. GENEVA 2217

1. THE MORE WE STUDY REF (A) THE MORE WE ARE SHOCKED AT THE ACTION OF THE ICRC IN CIRCULATING MAY 17 A LETTER WHICH PATENTLY INTENDS TO PAVE THE WAY FOR SO-CALLED "PRG" PARTICIPATION IN ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN LUCERNE SEPTEMBER 24 TO OCTOBER 18. THIS DECISION IS ONE WHICH CLEARLY AFFECTS VITAL U.S. INTERESTS.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT ALDRICH LAST MARCH IN GENEVA DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT EXHAUSTIVELY WITH ICRC PRESIDENT GALLOPIN AND SEPARATELY WITH THREE OTHER ICRC MEMBERS. (REF C) ALDRICH MADE IT PLAIN THAT, AFTER LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE HAD MADE DECISION NOT TO INVITE "PRG", FOR THE ICRC NOW TO GRATUITOUSLY IGNORE THIS

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DECISION AND EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE LUCERNE MEETING WOULD

SEEM RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE. IN EARLY APRIL US MISSION GENEVA REMINDED GALLOPIN THAT TO INVITE "PRG" WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY USG AND WOULD PRODUCE INEVITABLE STRONG ADVERSE REACTION (REF D). THAT THE ICRC SHOULD NOW CONFRONT US WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI IN ORDER TO PLACATE PRESSURES FROM INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC COMMUNIST MOVEMENTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS SEEMS INCREDIBLE. IT IS THE MORE INCREDIBLE SINCE THE ICRC HAD A READY-MADE AND DEFENSIBLE POSITION, QUITE ADEQUATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF WARDING OFF PRESSURES FROM HANOI'S SUPPORTERS, THAT IS, TO FOLLOW THE DECISION OF THE GENEVA LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. IN FACT IT IS HARD TO JUSTIFY DEPARTING FROM THE GENEVA PRECEDENT SINCE (1) THE WEAPONS CONFERENCE IS ORGANICALLY RELATED TO THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE AND (2) THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, DESIRABILITY OF "UNIVERSALITY", AND THE LIKE APPLY EQUALLY TO BOTH.

3. THERE IS NO NEED TO REHEARSE THE REASONS WHY THE "PRG" IS NEITHER ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATION IN THE LUCERNE CONFERENCE NOR QUALIFIED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION. THESE WERE AIRED AMPLY BEFORE AND DURING THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT WE REALIZE THAT THE ONE PURPOSE THE "PRG" WOULD HAVE IN ATTENDING THE LUCERNE CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO LAUNCH FROM THERE A RENEWED WAVE OF WAR CRIMES PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE US AND THE GVN. HOW GALLOPIN CAN BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD IN ANY WAY ADVANCE THE INTERESTS OF DISARMAMENT, PEACE, OR OTHER HUMANITARIAN OBJECTIVES IS SIMPLY INEXPLICABLE.

4. WE HAVE LONG THOUGHT THAT GALLOPIN IS NOT PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY TO THE US, BUT WE WERE STILL SURPRISED THAT HE SHOULD HAVE APPARENTLY DELIBERATELY MISLED US ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS. WE NOTE IN REF (B) THAT ON MAY 16 HE TOLD OUR MISSION IN GENEVA THAT, WHILE INVITEES TO LUCERNE CONFERENCE WOULD BE SOLICITED CONCERNING DESIRABILITY OF INVITING ENTITIES SUCH AS THE "PRG", IN FINAL ANALYSIS ICRC ASSEMBLY WILL MAKE THE DECISION. TWO DAYS LATER WE WERE GIVEN TEXT OF A LETTER OF INVITATION TO GOVERNMENTS WHO HAD ATTENDED GENEVA CONFERENCE IN WHICH ADDRESSEES ARE ASKED THEIR VIEWS ON INVITING THE "PRG", AND IT IS STATED ICRC WILL "STAND BY" THE WISHES EXPRESSED BY A MAJORITY. THIS ICRC LETTER OF INVITATION IS IN EFFECT A POLL (THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE REGARDED BY THE ICRC AS BINDING) OF THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE AT GENEVA ON A QUESTION THEY DECIDED LAST

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FEBRUARY 28.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD INFORM GALLOPIN QUICKLY THAT THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE ICRC'S ARBITRARY DECISION TO REOPEN QUESTION INVITATION TO "PRG" IS QUITE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE US. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS WE MAY HAVE MADE TO ICRC FOR LUCERNE CONFERENCE, BUT WE RECOMMEND INFORMING GALLOPIN THAT UNLESS WE ARE ASSURED THE "PRG" WILL NOT BE

INVITED, WE CANNOT MAKE FURTHER PAYMENTS TO SUPPORT THE  
CONFERENCE AND THAT ANY UNFILLED COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN VOIDED  
BY ICRC ACTION.

6. WE BELIEVE WE MUST ALSO BE PREPARED TO INFORM GALLOPIN  
THAT IF HE PERSISTS IN INVITING THE "PRG" THE US WOULD HAVE TO  
RECONSIDER ITS OWN ATTENDANCE AT THE LUCERNE CONFERENCE ON  
WEAPONS.

7. UNLESS GALLOPIN BACKS DOWN, IT SEEMS VERY CLEAR THAT WE  
HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO LAUNCH IMMEDIATELY WITH ALL MEANS  
AT OUR DISPOSAL A CAMPAIGN TO DEFEAT WHAT WILL SURELY BE A MASSIVE  
EFFORT BY HANOI AND ITS BACKERS TO WIN A MAJORITY FOR THE "PRG"  
IN REPLIES TO THE ICRC'S LETTER OF INVITATION.  
MARTIN

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